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Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council pursuant to the request of the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), which is contained in the Framework Agreement on the Resumption of the Negotiating Process (A/49/61-S/1994/53, annex) and in all subsequent agreements, for the United Nations to carry out international verification of the peace accords which they have been negotiating with the assistance of the United Nations. The report is concerned exclusively with the agreement on the definitive ceasefire, which was signed by the parties on 4 December 1996 in Oslo and follows upon my report of 26 November 1996 to the General Assembly, which was also circulated to the Security Council (A/51/695-S/1996/998). In that report I indicated (para. 12) that verification of measures related to the ceasefire agreement would be required very soon after signature of the overall package of peace accords and would, inter alia, involve the deployment of United Nations military personnel to verify the ceasefire, the separation of forces and the demobilization of URNG combatants.

2. The agreement on the definitive ceasefire will come into force, like other agreements in the overall peace package, upon the signing of the final peace agreement, which is scheduled for 29 December 1996 in Guatemala City. Subject to the Council's approval, the agreement will then require, within a short time, an increase in the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), through the addition, for a period of three months, of a military component to undertake verification of its implementation.

3. The purpose of the present report is to convey to the Security Council my recommendations on how the proposed military component of MINUGUA should undertake the responsibilities entrusted to it by the ceasefire agreement and on what changes will as a result be required in its organization and strength. These recommendations are based on the findings of a technical survey team of

the Secretariat which has visited Guatemala to assess requirements and to prepare for the possible deployment of United Nations military personnel.

II. VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM THE AGREEMENT ON THE DEFINITIVE CEASEFIRE

A. Ceasefire

4. The agreement provides that the ceasefire will enter into force as of 0000 hours on D-day, the date on which the United Nations verification mechanism shall be in place with a full operational capacity, and that the process must be completed no later than D+60, with the demobilization of approximately 3,000 URNG combatants. From D-10 to D-day, the United Nations is asked to deploy its personnel and equipment in order to verify the ceasefire at the sites agreed by the parties. During the ceasefire, MINUGUA military observers will be present in designated military units of the Guatemalan armed forces (GAF) and at URNG assembly points for purposes of verification. Any alleged violation of the ceasefire is to be investigated, verified and reported by MINUGUA military observers.

B. Separation of forces

5. A separation of forces is to be carried out in several stages, with certain Guatemalan army units redeploying to specified locations and URNG assembling at various sites before moving to designated assembly points. The parties are to communicate to MINUGUA military observers, no later than D-10, the full programme for the moves of their respective forces, including composition, routes to be taken and any other information needed to complete the verification. Redeployment of the units of the Guatemalan armed forces is to begin on D+2 and to continue until D+10 or earlier. URNG troops will begin to move from D+11 to D+21, but only if the Guatemalan armed forces have completed their movement. Each URNG group moving to the assembly points will be escorted by United Nations military officers.

6. URNG combatants are to be concentrated at eight assembly points. They will move to these points after D-day only along designated transit routes. After D-day, assembled combatants will be prohibited from leaving the assembly points without the consent and verification of United Nations personnel. United Nations military observers will provide unarmed escort to URNG combatants when they need to leave the assembly points for purposes specified in the agreement.

7. From D-day until URNG has completed its movement to the assembly points, United Nations military observers will establish 8 team sites of 15 personnel each in order to verify the ceasefire. Another 32 personnel will be positioned at the 8 team sites for command and control purposes.

8. The redeployment of GAF units will result in the establishment of areas in which the armed forces are not present. The minimum distance between GAF units and URNG assembly points will be 6 kilometres. A security zone with a radius of 6 kilometres will thus be established around each assembly point and the only military personnel permitted access to these zones will be those of the United Nations. Any police activities inside these zones will be subject to

coordination with the United Nations verification authorities. A coordination zone with a radius of a further 6 kilometres will be established around each security zone. Movement in the coordination zones by units of the Guatemalan armed forces or volunteer civil defence committees (CVDCs) must be coordinated in advance with United Nations military personnel.

C. Disarming of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca

9. The registration and storage of weapons in the URNG assembly points will be controlled and verified by the permanent presence of United Nations military observers, prior to the complete demobilization of URNG combatants. URNG is to provide the United Nations with detailed information on the number of its combatants, inventories of weapons, explosives and mines and of all other military equipment, both in its possession and in storage. Disarming will consist of the depositing, registration and handing over to the United Nations of all types of offensive and defensive weapons, explosives and munitions by URNG combatants. From D+11 to D+42, URNG will deposit its military equipment and weapons in special warehouses designated by the United Nations; combatants will, however, keep their personal equipment and weapons as long as they remain at assembly points. Each warehouse will have two locks, with one key held by a United Nations officer and the other by the URNG official in charge of each assembly point. URNG weapons will be transferred to the appropriate Guatemalan authorities by the United Nations after the completion of demobilization. URNG combatants will hand over their personal weapons and uniforms before being issued a demobilization certificate and leaving the assembly point.

D. Demobilization

10. The agreement provides that the demobilization of combatants of URNG, which will put an end to its military structure, will be carried out in the following phases: from D+43 to D+48: 33 per cent; from D+49 to D+54: 66 per cent; from D+55 to D+60: 100 per cent.

E. Concept of operations

11. If the Security Council agrees that MINUGUA's strength should be increased to permit it to fulfil the additional verification functions described above, it will be necessary to establish a military component in the Mission. This new component would be under the overall control of the Head of the Mission. It would be commanded by an officer at the rank of Brigadier General, who would be appointed by the Secretary-General after consultations with the parties and with the consent of the Security Council. The personnel of the military component would be contributed by Member States at the request of the Secretary-General after consultation with the parties and with the Security Council's approval. The military component would require a strength of 155 officers and some medical personnel until the verification process described above is completed. The members of the military component would have to arrive in the Mission area no later than D-15.

12. Between that day and D-day, the main headquarters of the military component would be established for command, control and logistic purposes in Guatemala City. There would be sector headquarters in Guatemala City and Santa Cruz de Quiché. As noted above, MINUGUA military observers would deploy to 8 verification team sites in the immediate vicinity of the established URNG assembly points. These team sites would ensure a permanent United Nations presence at the URNG assembly points and at designated bases of the Guatemalan armed forces. The teams would execute their verification tasks by patrolling the security and coordination zones by ground and air. They would liaise with the headquarters of the Guatemalan armed forces, its regional commands and URNG at the designated locations and assembly points. For the purpose of coordination, a joint working group would be established with the participation of representatives of both parties to the agreement.

13. If this process is to succeed, the assembly points will have to be fully prepared to receive URNG combatants. A mechanism coordinated by the United Nations has accordingly been established to oversee their preparation. The European Union (EU), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), along with several Member States and the Government of Guatemala, are contributing to this undertaking.

14. There would also be additional requirements for premises/accommodation, transport and air operations, communications and miscellaneous equipment. In addition to MINUGUA's existing helicopter, two others with all-weather capability would be required. I shall submit, as soon as possible, an addendum to the present report with preliminary cost estimates for the addition of a military component to MINUGUA for the three-month period envisaged.

III. OBSERVATIONS

15. The agreement on the definitive ceasefire was the third agreement in the Guatemalan peace process to be signed this year. Its signing had been preceded by that of the agreement on social and economic issues and the agrarian situation, at Mexico City on 6 May 1996 (A/50/956, annex), and that of the agreement on the strengthening of civilian power and on the role of the armed forces in a democratic society, also at Mexico City, on 19 September 1996 (A/51/410-S/1996/853, annex). Since its signature on 4 December 1996, two other agreements have been signed: the agreement on constitutional reforms and the electoral regime, on 7 December 1996 at Stockholm; and the agreement on the basis for the integration of URNG into the political life of the country, on 12 December 1996 at Madrid. The agreement on the timetable for the implementation and monitoring of the peace agreements will provide that the staggered demobilization of the URNG forces must be started at the same time as the implementation of the undertakings set out in the peace agreements as a whole.

16. Both parties thus want to see the military aspects of the peace settlement implemented as soon as possible after the signature of the final peace agreement, which is scheduled to take place at Guatemala City on 29 December 1996. This creates a need for the United Nations to deploy MINUGUA's new military component very rapidly after that date. I am therefore

presenting the present report to the Security Council in advance of the signature of the final peace agreement. The only agreement in the overall package which remains to be negotiated is the timetable for the implementation and verification of the peace accords. I am confident that the negotiation of that agreement will be rapidly concluded and that it will be signed, as scheduled, at the same time as the final agreement on a firm and lasting peace.

17. The General Assembly has so far assumed the central role in promoting and supporting the peace process in Guatemala, including especially its decision to establish MINUGUA and subsequently to extend that Mission's mandate on a number of occasions. Verification of the definitive ceasefire will, however, require the deployment of United Nations military observers, as described in the present report. In accordance with the established practice of the United Nations, such deployment will require authorization by the Security Council, which has consistently supported the peace process in Central America since it first commended the efforts of the Contadora countries in resolution 530 (1983). The Security Council may wish to grant me contingent authority to take the necessary steps to ensure that the United Nations will be able to attach a military component to MINUGUA, with the mandate, strength and structure proposed in the present report, as soon as possible after the final peace agreement has been signed. Authorization for the actual deployment of the component would be sought as soon as it is confirmed that the final peace agreement has been signed.